

For Information

NEA(09)9

*Information Note on Gyrodactylus salaris
(Tabled by EU- Sweden)*

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Information regarding Gyrodactylus salaris in the salmon rivers on the Swedish westcoast.

Infestation of *Gyrodactylus salaris* on salmon was for the first time investigated in some of the rivers on the Swedish West Coast in 1989. *Gyrodactylus salaris* was 1989 documented in a fish farm in river Lagan and in Säreån, a tributary to River Göta älv.

A monitoring programme started in the early 1990. An increase in infected rivers was noticed especially on the southern part of the Swedish West Coast probably partly as a result of the expanding monitoring programme and also partly due to infection in new rivers.

In order to prevent infestation in new rivers was restricted regulation introduced in fish farming, fish transports and stocking in two steps, 1999 and 2003.

The last infected river was river Himleån in 2005. This infection and the impact on the salmon stock is followed up in a special project started very soon after the parasite was noticed at the first time in the river

All rivers emptying north of river Göta älv are free from the parasite whereas only two (river Kungsbackaån and Rolfsån) south of river Göta älv are declared free.

The monitoring of occurrence and infestation of *Gyrodactylus salaris* continues. Field experiments comparing growth and survival of infected and un-infected salmon parr have been carried out. The preliminary results indicate a significant effect on growth and condition factor of *Gyrodactylus salaris* on parr.

Sweden is cooperating with Norway and is taking advantage of the knowledge in Norway. Some examples:

- The Norwegian Veterinary institute (Veterinärinstitutet, Tor-Atle Mo, Haakon Hansen) is identifying species of *Gyrodactylus sp* in the Swedish monitoring programme.
- The Norwegian Veterinary institute (Veterinärinstitutet, Haakon Hansen) is doing genetic studies on *Gyrodactylus salaris* on samples from the rivers in the monitoring programme. Sweden has also sent the historical sampling from the monitoring programme to Norway.

Norway, Sweden and Finland has also a cooperation in the north of the Scandinavian since *Gyrodactylus salaris* is present in Baltic rivers. The project is on information to prevent introduction by fishing equipment etc from Baltic rivers to rivers in the region emptying in the North Atlantic.